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# Halifax metro

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CAN TRUDEAU HANDLE THE TRUMP?

First meeting, Monday metroNEWS



TEACHERS CONTRACT VOTE




## Nova Scotia teachers reject latest tentative offer by another strong margin




Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax


Despite teachers voting overwhelmingly against a tentative agreement she recommended, the president of the NSTU won't be stepping down — and says the disconnect is due to a government "not willing" to agree to what educators want.

For the third time in less than two years a majority of Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) members — 76.5 per cent — voted Thursday to reject the offer.

"I can't say that I'm surprised by the result. I think that teachers had voiced their opinions," NSTU president Liette Doucet told reporters after the results came in at 8 p.m., referring to many teachers speaking out in recent weeks to say the deal didn't have enough specific classroom changes.

Turnout was more than 106 per cent, as substitute teachers working Thursday were given a vote.

When asked whether the recommendation shows a divide between NSTU leadership and members, Doucet said the only disconnect is between "what the membership is asking for and what the government is willing or prepared to agree to."

Asked whether Doucet or the executive feels the need to step down, she said: "I don't believe so, no."

Doucet said they recommended the deal because there were some improvements from the last one, including adding an arbitrator to the working conditions committee, mechanisms for classroom issues and other funding. "We brought them back the best deal that we could get," Doucet said.

Getting most teachers voting for a deal would mean it would have to immediately address classroom conditions, Doucet said, like adding support staff and specialists to classrooms, keeping the service award as is and cutting down the administrative workload.

Work-to-rule will continue for now, Doucet said, and the executive will meet next week to decide their next steps, which could include a walkout, a rotating strike or a different type of work-to-rule.

Doucet said she hopes the province could still return to the table, but can't say if they will. She added a legislated contract "is a possibility" but isn't sure whether teachers would prefer that over accepting a deal they don't like.

In a statement released after the vote, Education Minister Karen Casey didn't say what direction the province would take.

"The outcome of today's union vote is disappointing for students, parents and government," she said.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news



Twitter in an uproar amid rumours that Sarah Palin may become ambassador to Canada, World

# Pressure on feds over refugees

IMMIGRATION

## Stephanie Gillis flew to Jordan after Syrian family delayed



Jen Taplin
For Metro | Halifax

Their first meeting should have been a joyous occasion at the airport. Instead it happened in a small one-bedroom apartment in Jordan.

Frustrated at delays and eager to meet the sponsored Syrian refugee family, Stephanie Gillis took matters into her own hands and visited them in Jordan last month.

Gillis and her colleagues at Southwest Properties contributed about $25 000 to sponsor a family.

They were paired with a family in December 2015 and were told they would arrive by February 2016. They're still waiting.

So in January Gillis packed her bags and headed to Israel hoping to pop over to Jordan to see the family.

A connection through a friend on Facebook helped her navigate the streets and track them down.

The dad, Mouad Almasalma, thought someone was coming to his door to tell him his application was rejected.

"I got out of the car and the look on his face, it was amazing, it was so cool," she said.

Both Mouad and Maha are university educated and had enough English to communicate easily. The kids, Susu, 2, and Baroo, 3, took a little effort to warm up.

"At first they were scared of me because I was so different, right? But I put on wheels on the bus, the YouTube video. If you ever need a child to fall in love with you, use that video," Gillis said.

Within seconds they were sitting on her lap watching the video until the battery died.

"Susu has the biggest personality in the world," Gillis said. "I told her mom she's going to be a boss because she bosses around her big brother."

Gillis showed them pictures of their Halifax apartment — full of toys, Arabic books, furniture and even pictures on the wall — waiting for them.

By the end of the week, Gillis had fallen in love with the family and was deeply worried they might be denied entry to Canada.

"Mouad just looked at me and said, 'Stephanie we'll be OK. I don't want you to worry about us.' I just started crying because they've been through so much and lost so much and he's trying to reassure me."

Since she returned to Halifax, Gillis has been pestering the government to get on with processing the application.

"I'm optimistic that they'll come, we just don't know when."



Stephanie Gillis with Susu Almasalma, left, and Baroo Almasalma. CONTRIBUTED

**VISIT**

If the family is denied entry, Gillis said she knows they will always be a part of her life and plans to visit them again next year if she doesn't see them in Halfax first.



# Couple goes Gaga over big win

LOTTERY

## Lucky $1.5M ticket bought during Super Bowl halftime



Jen Taplin
For Metro | Halifax

Popping out to the store during halftime on Super Bowl Sunday was a $1.5 million good decision.

Not a fan of the New England Patriots nor Lady Gaga, Jim Oldfield thought a trip out to a Bedford convenience store would get him through halftime.

He bought a couple of Cross word tickets and a Mega Cash ticket at Ovo Convenience in Bedford. Oldfield doesn't buy them often, but his fiancee Liz Sayer does.

While Lady Gaga was floating through the air and belting out her songs in sequined boots, he scratched the tickets and found the Mega Cash ticket was a winner.

"I saw a one, a five and some zeros and I thought, 'Wow, we've won $15,000!' My legs got a little bit weak and I fell to the floor," he said in an interview. "Fifteen thousand for us would have been fantastic but when I got back up, took some deep breaths and started to really analyze the ticket I realized it was $1.5 million."

He said it took about three hours for it to sink in and he wasn't paying attention to the game anymore. Oldfield sat on the couch and reviewed the ticket over and over.

Once the news he was a millionaire sunk in, he called Sayer. She was working that night at Shannex, where they both work.

"He was very nonchalant at first," she said. "He said 'I have something to tell you' and it frightened me because I thought it was something with the kids or something was wrong."

When Oldfield told her they won $1.5 million she answered, "yeah, right." It took her a while to accept the news and she said she didn't truly believe it until the couple picked up their winnings at the Atlantic Lottery's head office in Moncton Thursday afternoon.

"We're very over the moon, exhilarated and we haven't slept a lot," she said.

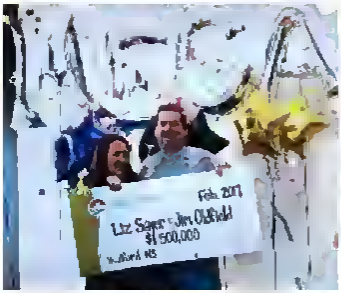
They want to cover education costs for their children, buy a property in Margaree, Cape Breton and take a family trip.

"It's very amazing that it could happen to us because we're very average people," Sayer said, laughing.

"And if can happen to us, it can happen to anybody," Oldfield added.

**HOW THEY MET**

Jim Oldfield and Liz Sayer met seven years ago during an ice cream social at their children's school and got engaged in just before Christmas.




The lucky lottery winners Liz Sayer and Jim Oldfield at a presentation in Moncton, N.B. on Thursday. CONTRIBUTED



Walking out to buy a lottery ticket during Lady Gaga's Super Bowl halftime show on Sunday was a $1.5 million good decision for Jim Oldfield. GETTY IMAGES



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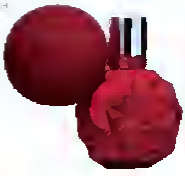
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# 5 THINGS TO DO IN HALIFAX THIS WEEKEND

Discovery Centre opening, movie music and Mooseheads. There is no shortage of events to keep you out of the cold this weekend.

JEN TAPLIN FOR METRO

## 1 Get out of this world

The wait is finally over. Huge crowds are expected to flock to the Discovery Centre's grand opening at their new location on Lower Water Street this weekend. The three-level space features a planetarium, science of music exhibit, innovation lab and much more. There will be a members-only sneak peek on Saturday from 10 a.m. — 5 p.m. while the public grand opening is Sunday 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

## 2 Music to warm the heart

This all ages musical performance from the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts School of Music promises something for everyone. This free event will have musical theatre, traditional music, and a Kindermusik demonstration. Check it out the Sunday 2 p.m. — 3 p.m. at the Halifax Central Public Library.



Karen Myatt stars in Songs at the Silver Screen, which runs through Sunday at Neptune Theatre. The performance features famous songs of the movies throughout the ages. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## 3 Duo Fortin-Poirier concert

The Dartmouth Community Concert Association presents Duo Fortin-Poirier, a one piano-four hands performance on Friday at 7:30 p.m. Montreal pianists Amelie Fortin and Marie-Christine Poirier have won several awards and toured internationally. They will be joined by Kennna Robinson, a second year bachelor of Music vocal student at Dalhousie University.

## 4 Hurricanes and Mooseheads

Sports fans are in for plenty of chances to catch a game this weekend. The Hurricanes have a busy weekend at the Scotiabank Centre. The basketball team plays the Cape Breton Highlanders Friday and the Moncton Miracles Saturday with both games at 7 p.m. The Mooseheads take over Sunday with a game against the Shawinigan Cataractes at 3 p.m.

## 5 Silver Songs

Karen Myatt brings the magic of the movies to Neptune Theatre in a new series of performances this weekend with Songs of the Silver Screen, following last year's successful Ladies of Song shows. The five performances, running until Sunday, capture "iconic musical memories," according to Neptune. Ranging from Disney to James Bond, classic films to modern hits, Myatt will bring familiar tunes to audiences with the support of her band of local musicians. Tickets are available at the box office, by phone at (902) 429-7070, or online at neptunetheatre.com.



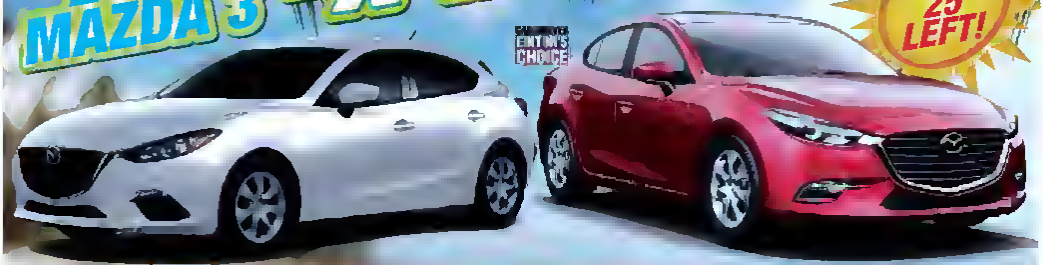
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CRIME

# 11 people charged after drug searches



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Although she couldn't get into specifics, Halifax Regional Police spokesperson Const. Dianne Penfound said an operation by the guns and gangs unit that resulted in 11 arrests was unusual.

"For the amount of people arrested, it's definitely unusual," she said in an interview.

In a media release, police said through the course of an investigation, police learned a woman was going to receive a shipment of drugs.

Acting on the information, members of the guns and gangs unit went to a building in the 3000 block of Barrington Street at 1 p.m. Wednesday and arrested Genevieve Pearl Leary, 26, of Halifax outside the building without incident.

Leary was found to be in possession of a quantity of marijuana and cannabis resin.

At about 1:45 p.m., police executed a search warrant at an apartment building in the 5200 block of Barrington Street where Michael Somsanith, 36, of Halifax was arrested without incident.

Police later seized a quantity of marijuana, cannabis resin and a large sum of Canadian currency from the residence.

Both Somsanith and Leary were held in custody overnight.

Leary is charged with three counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking in marijuana and three counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking cannabis resin. Somsanith is charged with two counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking in marijuana and two counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking cannabis resin. Both have also been charged with one count each of possession of proceeds of crime and money laundering.

Both were scheduled to appear in Halifax provincial court Thursday to face the charges.

At about 6 p.m. on Wednesday, police executed a second search warrant at a marijuana storefront located at 1593 Dresden Row in Halifax.

Officers seized a quantity of marijuana, cannabis resin, edibles and other drug paraphernalia. Six men and three women were arrested at that scene without incident.

### STOREFRONT BUST

All nine people arrested at the marijuana storefront are facing one count each of possession for the purpose of trafficking in marijuana and possession for the purpose of trafficking cannabis resin.

They were all released on a promise to appear and undertaking and are scheduled to appear in Halifax provincial court at a later date to face these charges.

# Victim testifies in taxi sex assault case

COURT

## Officer says cab was idling and appeared 'suspicious'



Anna Sophia Vollmerhausen
For Metro | Halifax

Without looking at the accused, the alleged victim in a taxicab sexual assault case testified in court Thursday.

Bassam Al-Rawi, the driver of the cab, appeared in Halifax provincial court to stand trial for one charge of sexual assault.

Al-Rawi can currently drive a cab since he had his taxi licence reinstated following the charge. In December 2015, a HRM committee confirmed they would not revisit the issue despite a citizen asking Al-Rawi's licence be suspended pending a verdict.

The court heard that the night of Friday, May 22, 2015, the victim headed out to a fundraising event with friends before going to the Midtown Tavern later that evening.

Around 1:20 a.m. Saturday, a Halifax Regional Police officer testified they saw a cab idling near the corner of Atlantic and Brussels streets which appeared "suspicious." After pulling up behind the cab, Const. Monia Thibault said she could see an unconscious female lying in the backseat, wearing only a pink tank top pulled up over her breasts. The victim was lying at an angle, with her legs up on each of the two front seats. Her personal belongings were spread around inside the cab.

According to Thibault, the victim was "slow to come to" and appeared confused about where she was that night.

"She was very upset," Thibault said, adding that the victim was crying and kept apologizing.

Thibault testified that the driver of the cab appeared to be trying to conceal a pair of underwear between himself and the console of the cab, which was part of the Bob's Taxi fleet. She also said he was fumbling with something in his lap and noted that when he exited the cab, his pants were undone.

Al-Rawi was arrested at the scene for sexual assault.

After a night of drinking, the victim said she was unable to remember much of what happened after leaving the bar. When asked by the defence, she said she did not recognize Al-Rawi, and doesn't remember getting into the cab. The defence lawyer also questioned the victim about whether she becomes "less cautious" when drinking and if she tends to lose control.

The victim, who was 26 at the time, said she "can only speculate" on how she acts when she's drunk, since she doesn't remember anything.

Reports from a private forensics company were entered as evidence, and showed the victim's DNA was present around Al-Rawi's mouth.



Bassam Al-Rawi, the cabbie accused of sexual assault, in Halifax provincial court Thursday. Al-Rawi had his taxi licence reinstated following the charge and can currently drive a cab. JEFF HARPER/METRO

HALIFAX TRANSIT

Making Transit Better—Route 56 Dartmouth Crossing

The Route 56 Dartmouth Crossing is changing to provide better connections between Bridge Terminal and Dartmouth Crossing.

Starting Feb. 20, 2017, this route will:
- Provide direct service between the Bridge Terminal, Mic Mac Mall and Dartmouth Crossing
- Run later seven days a week (until midnight Monday to Saturday, and 11 p.m. on Sunday)
- Provide two-way service on Countryview Drive in Dartmouth Crossing

The Route 56 will no longer provide direct service to Dartmouth Crossing from Penhorn or Portland Hills Terminals.

For more information, detailed schedules, and to plan your route, visit: halifax.ca/transit/schedules



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# Premier McNeil responds to O'Leary's economy jibe

POLITICS

## Reality TV star says high taxes are strangling Nova Scotia

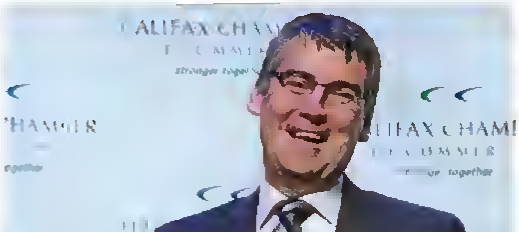
Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil says Conservative leadership hopeful Kevin O'Leary should be focused on debating issues with his fellow Tories rather than attacking him in an "open letter."

McNeil was responding to the letter posted Wednesday on O'Leary's Facebook page in which the reality TV star slammed the Liberal premier for the state of the province's economy.

O'Leary said he spoke to many Nova Scotians about the poor economy when he was in Halifax last weekend for a debate. He said the province is being strangled by high taxes and policies that discourage natural gas and oil exploration.

But McNeil pointed Thursday to a number of growth areas, including an increase in the province's population to an all-time high last year and a hike in exports.

"Canadian institutions are seeing us as a rising star in the east when it comes to growing our population and our province and our economy," said McNeil after a cabinet meeting.



Premier Stephen McNeil defended himself by saying that Nova Scotia is a rising star in the east when it comes to population growth and the economy. DIVAAN MOHAMMED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> Mr. O'Leary needs to be debating issues with Conservatives, those that will actually have a chance to vote on his future.
> Premier Stephen McNeil

Mr. O'Leary needs to be debating issues with Conservatives those that will actually have a chance to vote on his future. Those are the people he should be dealing with."

O'Leary's Facebook post had racked up about 3,500 likes in 24 hours. O'Leary is an entrepreneur and a star of the U.S.-based Shark Tank reality show who spends much of the year in Boston. His Conservative leadership campaign has been likened to U.S. President Donald Trump's for a no-holds barred speaking style that often dominates media coverage of the race.

"I reach millions of Canadians each week through the media and I have promised all of them that I will shine the light on mediocrity and incompetence in government when I see it," O'Leary said in the letter.

"So I am putting you on notice. It's time you start doing a better job for the people in Nova Scotia. If you don't? Well you can ask your friend Kathleen Wynne what happened to her poll numbers when I started writing letters."

O'Leary called the Ontario premier "incompetent" after she criticized his comments on Ontario's auto sector. He slammed Wynne over Ontario's more than $300 billion debt and suggested she call a snap election. He had also targeted Alberta Premier Rachel Notley, a New Democrat, before he formally joined the race. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Kevin O'Leary has also attacked Kathleen Wynne and Rachel Notley. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

LEGISLATION

## Old booze laws to be reviewed

Premier Stephen McNeil says the Nova Scotia government is reviewing bizarre liquor laws that date back to the Prohibition era. Nova Scotia has 105 dry communities, most of them rural and unaware of their status.

It is the only province that restricts where liquor can be sold or produced through provincial legislation, and dry areas can only become wet through plebiscite. Voters in two small districts inside the municipality of West Hants voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to allow the sale and production of liquor, ending their dry status.

McNeil said Thursday the province is currently reviewing all its liquor laws and noted it recently changed a controversial markup fee applied to the breweries by the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation.

Beginning April 1, the 50 cent per litre Retail Sales Markup Allocation on craft beer will be changed to five percent of wholesale costs of sales made directly by brewers. Since taverns were first legalized in Nova Scotia in 1948, 280 plebiscites have been held by the province's alcohol and gaming division.

The province does not have a list of communities that are considered dry. An old map in a government office in Halifax is supposed to show which ones are still locked in Prohibition, but the names are so faded that the document is of little use.

Other provinces have long relied on municipal zoning or bylaws to impose restrictions. THE CANADIAN PRESS





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This mansion in Newport Landing has been getting a lot of attention online from a real estate listing, which has been shared around the world. CONTRIBUTED

# This will give you real estate envy

HOUSING

## Historic N.S. mansion listed for $435K generates buzz

A local real estate listing in the quiet community of Newport Landing is getting some international buzz.

One of the Mounce Mansions on Avondale Road has been listed by Eastern Valley Real Estate Ltd. for $434,900.

The listing has only been active for two days, but it's already gone viral, with more than 400,000 clicks on their website as of Feb. 8.

"It's been pretty amazing. I think a lot of it has been generated through Facebook with the shares from there," Graves said. "We were very surprised with how much exposure it was getting."

The Facebook post has more than 13,000 shares, 5,000 comments and 7,000 reactions as of late Feb. 8.

Graves said the firm hadn't expected such a huge response with interested callers from British Columbia, Ontario and even as far away as Ireland.

"I thought it would generate some interest, given the size of the house, the location and of course the price," she said. "I knew we'd be busy with it, but not to this level."

Graves said Eastern Valley has been getting lots of interest from potential buyers, with multiple bookings scheduled throughout the next couple of weeks. Many of those interested buyers are coming from the Halifax area, she said.

Some who have looked at the listing on Facebook are commenting that spirits likely haunt the halls.

Many have used pop culture references to compare the listing to a haunted house. Down too Abbey, Beauty and the Beast and more.

"The poltergeist comments people are making has gotten to me, but I haven't seen any down there," she said. "I've been there quite a bit on my own, spent some time in the house by myself, and haven't had any issues. So either they don't exist or they're OK with me."

Graves said the mansion has a grandiose look and feel, with a crystal door, a grand foyer and original woodworking throughout.

She said that the firm has received some interest from business clients who are looking into the possibility of turning the building into a bed and breakfast or an inn.

The property is currently zoned as residential, so a business would need to apply to the municipality to change the zoning.

Graves said the building does need work, but is structurally sound.

"The exterior needs some painting, there's some boards that need to be replaced. It's more of that type of thing," she said. "A buyer may want to change the inside, which might be a shame, but some may want to modernize it."

TC MEDIA



The grand foyer with original woodwork. CONTRIBUTED

### BY THE NUMBERS

**7**

Number of bedroom in the mansion. In addition, there are 2.5 bathrooms.

**6,000**

The tax rate is $6,315.54 per year.

**7,000**

The mansion is 7,000 square feet.

**3.17**

The listing size of the property is 3.17 acres.

**107**

The Mounce Mansion is 107 years old.




# Concerns rising over sea level

ENVIRONMENT

## Experts urge province to plan for 'grim scenario'



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

With a new website and two workshops this weekend a local environmental group hopes to educate Nova Scotians about a "very grim, but plausible scenario for Atlantic Canada."

"The purpose of the website and the workshops is to get people interested, informed and then encouraged to start incorporating sea level rise into their plans," Ecology Action Centre (EAC) coastal adaptation coordinator Samantha Page said in an interview.

With 70 per cent of people in Nova Scotia living in coastal communities, Page is hoping to alert people to the risks of building homes, cottages or even larger developments close to the coast, given the latest climate projections.

The U.S. National Ocean and Atmospheric Association is predicting maximum sea level rise of 2.5 metres by the year 2100, as opposed to the previous projection of one metre by 2100.

"That would be a very grim, but plausible scenario for Atlantic Canada," Page said. "In Nova Scotia, the Annapolis Royal would be under water."

EAC's website, sealevelrise.ca, is designed to put scientific data on sea level rise into a digestible format and allow people to see the effect it will have on their specific communities with an interactive map.

From a municipal planning standpoint, Halifax has been planning for sea level rise.

"Halifax is actually widely regarded in the planning community for being on the cutting edge for incorporating and being aware of sea levels," municipal spokesperson Brendan Elliott said in an email.

The municipality's current planning strategy prohibits residential development on the coast within a 3.8 metre elevation above a slightly out-dated mean sea level.

Page said the municipality would be wise to raise that number "especially when you take into consideration not just sea level rise, but then high tide plus storm surge."

Elliott said work on the upcoming Centre Plan would include considerations about predicted sea levels and the workshops is to get people interested, informed and then encouraged to start incorporating sea level rise into their plans," Ecology Action Centre (EAC) coastal adaptation coordinator Samantha Page said in an interview.

> **The purpose of the website and the workshops is to get people interested.**
> Samantha Page

### WORKSHOPS

**Saturday:** Runs from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in Musquodoboit Harbour at the Old School Community Gathering Place.

**Sunday:** Runs from 2:15 to 4:45 p.m. in St. Margaret's Bay at the Tantallon Public Library.



Waves hit the shore in Cow Bay near Halifax in October 2012. The Atlantic region was mainly spared from the wrath of Hurricane Sandy, but high winds and rain are expected to continue for the next day. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS




MILITARY

## 'Catastrophic' fire likely to occur at ammo depot: Report

A major munitions depot in Halifax is at high risk of a "catastrophic" fire that could kill military personnel, destroy millions of dollars worth of ammunition and cause "severe environmental damage," according to a newly released assessment of the facility.

The report by the Canadian Forces fire marshal found that a fire at the depot, which houses most of the weaponry for the region's naval vessels and bases, was "likely" — with the risk of a fire being deemed high.

It said immediate steps were needed to reduce the chances of a fire at the Canadian Forces Ammunition Depot, which occupies the northern shoreline of the Bedford Basin and also has a missile maintenance facility and loading jetty.

The review was requested by the commander of CFB Halifax and completed in June 2015 but just recently released to the CBC.

"Considering the potential for loss of millions of dollars in ammunition, the potential net explosive quantity present and the probability of loss of life the fire effect severity is set at catastrophic," reads the document.

It said the area surrounding the depot is made up of hardwood and coniferous trees, which burn very hot, with a "significant amount of dead trees and broken branches lying on the ground ... which increases the fire index and potential for fire spread."

The report said maintenance of the vegetation is limited to grass cutting "with fire break maintenance being non-existent. As a result it says there is an ongoing risk of brush or forest fires. It added that in 2014, Halifax firefighters reported 20 brush fires in the area right next to the depot.

The review which examined incidents between 2004 and 2014 also found many buildings have fire alarm systems, but few have automatic detection.

The lightning protection and water systems were determined to be inadequate and not maintained as required. It said that because the water storage reservoir and fire pumps are not automated they have to be activated manually at a pump house. The system also did not increase the water pressure the report found.

The report says there has been an increase in the number of failures of the lightning protection system, which has been deteriorating for years.

"The issue has been well documented over the years and still has not been addressed," the report states. "In order to prevent a lightning strike from inadvertently initiating explosives, it is imperative that the lightning protection system be maintained in optimal condition."

The report says the identified deficiences were not compliant with the National Fire Code of Canada and contravened the Canada Labour Code and Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### ACTION PLAN

The 22-page report found the area around the sprawling complex, which includes ammunition storage magazines, maintenance shops and administrative offices, is heavily forested and not properly maintained, raising the overall risk of a fire. In order to bring the fire risk down to medium, the report recommends:

- **Controlling vegetation**
- **Repairing the lightning protection system**
- **Repair the water supply system**



Meroun Diab, husband of Minister Lena Diab, appeared in Halifax provincial court on Thursday JEFF HARPER/METRO

# Husband of Diab agrees to evaluation

COURT

## Psychiatric test due following allegations he choked minister

The husband of Nova Scotia's immigration minister stood quietly Thursday as he consented to a psychiatric assessment amid charges he assaulted, threatened and choked his wife on New Year's Eve.

Marouan Diab appeared briefly in Halifax provincial court and was remanded for the assessment at the East Coast Forensic Hospital to determine his fitness to stand trial and criminal responsibility.

Diab had been released on a series of conditions last month including one prohibiting him from having any contact with his wife Lena Diab, and two other people.

But his lawyer Mark Knox said he was later admitted to hospital under the province's Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act and was brought to court Thursday by staff from the Abbie J. Lane hospital.

"I've spoken to Mr. Diab and his family members and he is agreeable to a term at the East Coast Forensic unit," said Knox, as Maroun Diab stood next to him emotionless in a dark suit.

Diab also faces two counts of threatening two other people and will return to court March 8. Halifax police said the 58-year-old was arrested early New Year's Day after they received a call shortly before midnight from the Diabs' home near Mount Saint Vincent University.

Lena Diab later described the incident as a "very tragic, sad, private and personal matter," and publicly thanked the community for supporting her and her family of four children and one grandchild.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**LENA DIAB**

Lena Diab, a lawyer and business owner, was appointed Nova Scotia's first female justice minister after winning office in October 2013, and was named to the immigration portfolio in 2015.

# Halifax DIGEST

CRIME

**Court delay for accused in Oland prison assault**

A court appearance for two Halifax men charged with assaulting Dennis Oland in a New Brunswick prison was delayed Thursday.

Convicted killer Cody Alexander Muise and Aaron Mimmott, who was convicted in a 2008 drug shooting allegedly attacked Oland at Atlantic Institution in Kanous, N.B., on July 31.

The 48-year-old Saint John financial planner had been jailed for 10 months after a jury found him guilty of second-degree murder in the 2011 bludgeoning of his multi-millionaire father. Saint John businessman Richard Oland. Muise and Marriott were due in Miramichi, N.B., court Thursday for election and plea, but a court clerk said the matter was postponed to March 9.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEDIA

**Chronicle Herald strike rolls on as talks break off**

The union that represents 55 striking newsroom staff at the Halifax Chronicle Herald says contract talks have broken off with the daily newspaper.

The workers have been on strike for more than a year. The Halifax Typographical Union says the two sides have reached an impasse over seniority jurisdiction and a handful of other issues. The union issued a statement saying the company will not look to seniority when deciding who to lay off.

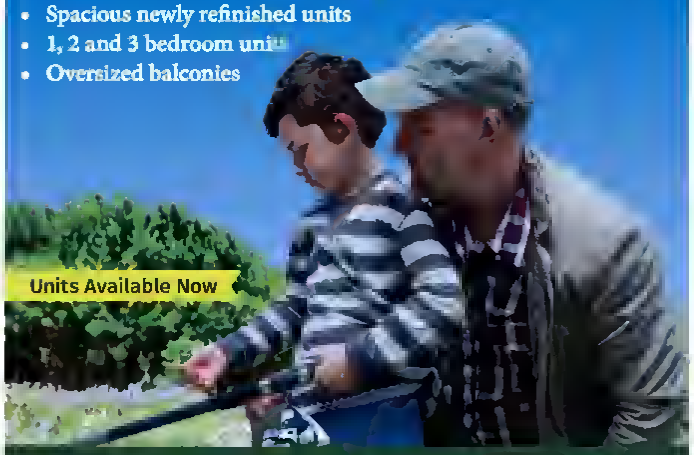
Union president Ingrid Bulmer says union members have already agreed to a longer work week, a five per cent wage cut, fewer vacation days, a freeze to their pension plan, lower salaries for new hires and other concessions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS


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LECTURE

# Speech from Ghomeshi's lawyer will go on

A speech by Marie Henein, Jian Ghomeshi's lawyer, will go ahead at three Canadian universities Friday evening despite opposition from some students in Nova Scotia.

The prominent Toronto defence lawyer is scheduled to speak at Bishops University in Sherbrooke, Que., as part of a lecture series with the presentation live-streamed to St. Francis Xavier and Acadia universities in Nova Scotia.

Jasmine Cormier, a student at St. FX in Antigonish, wrote an article in that university's weekly newspaper in November saying Henein's selection serves to silence victims and perpetuate rape culture. Cormier says she's concerned by the message sent by Henein's aggressive treatment of the women who had accused the former CBC host of sexual misconduct, and she wanted Henein's speech cancelled.

"We instituted a new sexual violence policy and then to have it go hand-in-hand with this lecture is kind of like saying one thing and doing another," she said Thursday.

However, Cormier said she is pleased that promotion of the live-streamed event has been low-key on her campus.

"We've had some emails saying that it is going to be happening, but no posters, and not the norm for presentations of that size," she said.

Henein is a senior law partner at Henein Hutchison, and has been counsel on numerous high-profile and controversial cases.

Acadia University has scheduled a panel discussion to follow the speech. That panel will be moderated by the co-ordinator of Acadia's Women's and Gender Studies program.

"For Acadia to be doing that it's a great way to contextualize it," Cormier said. "It's 'This is what she's going to say — do we agree? Do we disagree? And why or why not?' That's what's important about keeping the conversation alive." THE CANADIAN PRESS






Joey the cat is once again happy and healthy after being covered in furnace oil. CONTR. BUTLER

# Joey makes full recovery

ANIMAL WELFARE

## Cat is happy and healthy after a flood mishap

A Sydney feline has made a full recovery after he was covered in furnace oil following the Thanksgiving Day flood in October.

Lucy Wintermans said Joey the cat is back to his old self happy and healthy after his frightening experience.

"It took a couple of weeks until he was fully recovered," said the cat's owner. "His skin and a lot of his fur came off but once it grew back he was fine."

Joey was normally an outdoor cat but after flooding across the Cape Breton Regional Municipality including in Wintermans' south-end Sydney neighbourhood, she decided to keep him inside for nearly a week.

After the worst of the floods had passed, Wintermans felt it was safe to let Joey outside. However, when the cat returned home, he was covered head to toe in furnace oil.

Joey was given about six baths with Dawn detergent but Wintermans feared for his safety after he had licked himself and eaten some of his fur off.

The following day Wintermans took Joey to the veterinarian where he underwent a number of tests and it was determined that his organs were functioning mostly normally, but he was placed on antibiotics to be safe and was given the OK to return home.

The next day Joey still wasn't himself, leaving Wintermans no choice but to take him back to the vet where he was X-rayed and spent the night on intravenous and bathed again.

> **We would be devastated if anything ever happened to him.**
> Lucy Wintermans

When Joey returned home a second time he was placed on different medication and his recovery began.

Today Joey is back to his normal self, playing outside and snuggling with his family, something Wintermans is happy to see.

"We really love him and treat him as a member of our family," said Wintermans.

Wintermans said Joey the cat still goes outside and will turn two years old at the end of the month. TC MEDIA

# Refugees brave cold to enter Canada

IMMIGRATION

## Farmers welcome migrants from U.S. with meal

People have been walking across the United States border to claim refugee status for years, but a Winnipeg immigration lawyer says he's not used to seeing them cross over in the bitter cold.

When they arrive, says Rashir Khan, they are often thirsty and hungry for some, the first Canadian they meet in a farmer who welcomes them inside and offers a meal.

"They'll cook up 12 eggs and let a poor hungry refugee claimant wolf it all down," says Khan. It's the migrant who asks to speak with border officials or police, he adds. "The refugee claimant is the one begging them to call, not the other way around."

Khan has 17 clients who have braved the weather in recent months to cross into Manitoba as an "irregular arrival," RCMP have said that last weekend 22 people walked from North Dakota into Emerson-Franklin. The majority were put up in a community hall and fed by volunteers.

Officials in Emerson say they've recently seen more border jumpers following planned new restrictions in the United States on refugees.

The Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement requires people to apply for asylum in the first country they arrive. If they have already applied as a refugee in the U.S. before showing up at a border port in Canada, and have no blood relatives here, they are turned away. But if a person crosses into Canada somewhere else and then applies as a refugee, the case is heard in the Canadian system.

**11,000**

Refugee claimants processed at designated ports last year, the Canada Border Services Agency says

The Canada Border Services Agency says 11,000 refugee claimants were processed at designated ports last year. Figures released this week show more than 2,000 claimants entered "irregularly," with growing numbers in Manitoba, Quebec, British Columbia and Yukon.

Khan says he has only ever had clients walk across the border into Manitoba in warmer months.

"They always come when winter breaks in the spring, until late fall. In the last seven years, I've never seen anyone come in the dead of winter and risk life and limb."

Two men from Ghana were severely frostbitten in December when they crossed the border at Emerson. It speaks to their desperation to get to Canada, says Khan.

Refugee claimants are released after meeting with a border officer for a couple of hours, Khan says. They have 15 days to file a claim and a hearing date is set in three to four months.

During that time, they may connect with friends or family or an immigration agency to find a place to live.

THE CANADIAN PRESS




A road sign near Emerson, Man., where refugees have been crossing into Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## 150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 10

### QUAILS' GATE, KELOWNA, B.C.



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ERIC HAMILTON

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HISTORY

## Feds pledge action on Inuit tuberculosis epidemic issues

The federal government pledged Thursday to take steps to address the painful historical memories of Inuit who experienced relocations and mistreatment during the tuberculosis epidemic of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

The announcement came after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sat down with Inuit leaders and signed a joint declaration in Iqaluit — his first visit to the territories since the 2015 election — committing to multiple future meetings.

There is a lot of work left to address the unique social, cultural, economic and environmental issues Inuit face every day, but progress is being made, Trudeau said.

"The Inuit-Crown partnership committee will play an important role as we take action on the priorities that matter to Inuit and Canadians," he said.

**CHALLENGES**

- Indigenous people continue to face serious health challenges including high rates of chronic and contagious diseases and shorter life expectancies, Health Canada data suggest.
- Tuberculosis infection rates are about 50 times higher among the Inuit population compared to the general population, the department said.

The hard part begins now, said Natan Obed, the president of Canada's national Inuit organization.

"We're going to come together with senior officials that are going to decide how to craft action on things like land claim implementation, on health issues — whether it is suicide prevention or tuberculosis — housing and infrastructure or language and culture."

Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett, Health Minister Jane Philpott and Social Development Minister Jean Yves Duclos were also part of Thursday's discussions about severe housing and health challenges in the North.

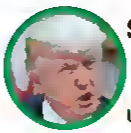
THE CANADIAN PRESS



# Court won't bring back ban on Muslim nations

POLITICS

## But it's not over; Appeal to Supreme Court is likely



SEE YOU IN COURT, THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE.
U.S. President Donald Trump



Mr. President, we just saw you in court, and we beat you.
Washington Gov. Jay Inslee

A federal appeals court refused Thursday to reinstate President Donald Trump s ban on travellers from seven predominantly Muslim nations unanimously rejecting the administration s claim of presidential authority and questioning its motives.

The panel of three judges from the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declined to block a lower-court ruling that suspended the ban and allowed previously barred travellers to enter the U.S.

The court battle is far from over. The lower court still must debate the merits of the ban and an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court seems likely. That could put the decision in the hands of a divided court that has a vacancy. Trump s nominee, Neil Gorsuch, could not be confirmed in time to take part in any consideration of the ban.

Moments after the ruling was released, Trump tweeted, "SEE YOU IN COURT," adding that "THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!"

In response Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat who leads one of the states that challenged the ban, said "Mr. President, we just saw you in court, and we beat you."

The appeals panel said the government presented no evidence to explain the urgent need for the executive order to take effect immediately. The judges noted compelling public interests on both sides.

"On the one hand, the public has a powerful interest in national security and in the ability of an elected president to enact policies. And on the other, the public also has an interest in free flow of travel in avoiding separation of families and in freedom from discrimination," the court rejected the administration's claim that it did not have the authority to review the president's executive order.

"There is no precedent to support this claimed unreviewability which runs contrary to the fundamental structure of our constitutional democracy," the court said.

While they did not rule on the merits of the states' argument that the travel ban was intended to target Muslims, the judges rejected the government's claim that the courts should not consider statements by Trump or his advisers about wishing to enact such a ban. Considering those remarks, the judges said, falls within well established legal precedent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## Trump, Trudeau to meet

President Donald Trump will receive Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the White House on Monday — their first official meeting after weeks of back-and-forth about setting a tangible agenda beyond pleasantries and first-encounter photo ops.

People familiar with the planning said uncertainty about the date lingered for a reason: the Canadian side wanted specific results while the U.S. side is busy getting its cabinet confirmed.



Justin Trudeau
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The drama was further fuelled by a spectacular public rift between Trump and the president of Mexico last month scrubbing plans for a potential trilateral meeting.

"The president looks forward to a constructive conversation in strengthening the deep relationship that exists between the United States and Canada," said spokesman Sean Spicer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# It's clear now; they just want your money

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From my POV

I love shoes. Many times shopping at Hudson's Bay I've picked up a pair that looked as if it could be something I'd want to wear if it weren't for some hint of cheapness: the air of a knockoff; the feeling that the shoe was saying to me "I am exactly your style," but I could sense a lie. Once you got closer it wasn't quite as elegant. The fabrics tad tacky. The stitching imprecise. In general, less fabulous, more fake. And it was always Ivanka Trump (™).

It's not until numerous people posted images of bland Ivanka Trump wrap dresses on Facebook this week — supporting Nordstrom's claim that it recently dropped her line of women's wear because it wasn't selling well — that I remembered the shoes. I realized what a perfect metaphor they were for Ivanka herself: now that we've had a closer look, we can spot the fake.

The full extent to which she's misrepresented the women-friendly policies of her business, argued that her privileged childhood was in fact an obstacle she overcame in order to become rich, and used her newfound political power to hawk her own products is detailed elsewhere.

But this week, we saw the curtain fall away completely. First, Trump slammed Nordstrom on Twitter. Then Kellyanne Conway, Trump's key advisor, shifted gears from presidential spokesperson to president's daughter's lifestyle brand endorser.

"Go buy Ivanka's stuff," she told the American people on Thursday. "I'm just going to give a free commercial here. Go buy it today everybody."



Ivanka and Melania Trump
AFP/GETTY IMAGES

From the beginning, the idea that the Trump family would not try to profit directly from the presidency was as foolish as believing a dog would not try to roll in a pile of s— But few thought we'd see it so blatantly.

Conway's shopping-channel episode came only days after we learned Melania Trump was in fact planning on making wads of cash from being first lady.

Court documents filed by her lawyers as part of a libel suit against the Daily Mail argue she's lost out on a "unique, once in a lifetime opportunity" to "launch a broad-based commercial brand in multiple product categories, each of which could have garnered multi-million dollar business relationships for a multi-year term during which Plaintiff is one of the most photographed women in the world." In other words: She planned to use her time as first lady to get rich(er).

What's important about these latest episodes is the shameless nature of these claims to self-enrichment. While liberals worry whether they're being too paranoid about Trump, or not paranoid enough, his wife, daughter, political advisor and he himself have dropped pretences all together.

You can leave your ethics and morals to the birds and the bees, America. They want money.

# Speculation abounds over Sarah Palin as ambassador

Sarah Palin has been governor of Alaska, candidate for vice-president of the United States and the butt of countless jokes. Now is she about to become the American ambassador to Canada?

On Wednesday, White House press secretary Sean Spicer fuelled speculation that Palin is Ottawa-bound when he declined on Wednesday to comment on whether she is being considered as ambassador to Ottawa.

"With respect to the ambassador, we have no additional ambassador nominations or announcements to make on that front," Spicer told reporters when asked specifically about rumours that Palin was under consideration for the Canadian post. "I'm sure, at some point, we will have soon."

That was enough to cause Twitter to blow up.

"#sarahpalin trotted to become US Ambassador to Canada," bar owner Mike Slankard wrote. "Stop laughing, little known fact — she speaks almost fluent Canadian."

Palin tweeted a couple dozen times on Wednesday and early Thursday but didn't immediately address the ambassador story.

Palin reportedly loves moose stew, admires hockey moms and is happy on a snowmobile, but that didn't impress the tweeters.

Some of the tweets didn't bother with humour.

"Sarah Palin as ambassador?" New Democrat MP Charlie Angus tweeted. "Well that would show how little Steve Bannon and his pal @realDonaldTrump think of Canada."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## GLOBAL DIGEST

UNITED STATES

**Cities hit by biggest snowstorm of the winter**

The biggest storm to hit the Northeast U.S. this winter dropped a foot or more of snow along the New York to Boston corridor Thursday, turning roads treacherous, grounding flights and giving millions of people weather whiplash a day after temperatures soared into the 10s.

Scores of accidents were reported as drivers confronted blowing snow and slick highways. Schools closed in cities big and small, and government offices told non-essential workers to stay home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO

**Monarch butterfly numbers drop 27%**

The number of monarch butterflies wintering in Mexico dropped by 27 per cent this year, reversing last year's recovery from historically low numbers, according to a study by government and independent experts released Thursday.

The experts say the decline could be due to late winter storms last year that blew down more than 100 acres of forests where migrating monarch butterflies spend the winter in central Mexico.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NETHERLANDS

**Prosecutors seek 11 years for alleged cyberbully**

Dutch prosecutors on Thursday sought the maximum possible sentence — nearly 11 years — for a man charged with cyberbullying dozens of young girls and gay men and who's also accused in Canada of sexually extorting Amanda Todd, a 15 year-old girl who later killed herself.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi** says the infrastructure bank, once created will conduct extensive analyses on proposals before approving them for funding THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Sohi soothes panel's fears

INFRASTRUCTURE

## Financial safeguards to be part of new bank: Minister

The federal Infrastructure minister and his top officials tried Thursday to ease a Commons committee's fears that taxpayers could be left holding the bag if projects funded through a proposed infrastructure bank go bankrupt.

Top officials from Infrastructure Canada told MPs that bank deals which include some level of financial risk to the federal treasury will be worded to protect taxpayers in cases where one or more parties go into default.

Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi told the committee that the bank, once it is created, will also conduct extensive analyses on proposals before approving them for funding to ensure the projects are financially sound and deliver an economic boost.

"There is a lot of money in the private sector that can be mobilized to build infrastructure that our communities need to grow our economy," Sohi said during his committee appearance.

"The private sector creates jobs. They create jobs in many other ways and if we can mobilize that capital to build the necessary infrastructure, as well as grow our economy, we don't see a downside to that."

Sohi could not say, however, who would make the final decision about what projects the bank would finance. Most of those details won't be worked out until after this year's federal budget, but officials were quick to point out that the bank would be accountable to Parliament. Among the details still under review are the size and location of the bank's offices, a point Sohi made when a fellow Liberal MP pushed for it to be in Montreal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## IN BRIEF

**Loblaw widens recall of baby food over health risk**

Loblaw Companies has expanded a recall of PC Organics baby food pouches, which may contain a toxin that can cause illness and, in severe cases, even death.

The products were sold across Canada through the Loblaw retail network, which includes Shoppers Drug Mart, Real Canadian Superstore, Provigo, No Frills, The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says the baby food may contain a toxin produced by Clostridium botulinum bacteria. THE CANADIAN PRESS

E COMMERCE

# Shopify defends hosting Breitbart store

Shopify's CEO is defending the e-commerce company's decision to keep hosting an online store for the controversial right-wing U.S. media organization Breitbart News.

Tobi Lutke posted a statement online Wednesday that says he has received more than 10,000 messages asking the Ottawa-based company to stop hosting Breitbart's online store.

But Lutke says that to do so would be an act of censorship and would interfere with the free exchange of goods that is at the heart of commerce.

Lutke argues that products are a form of speech and that it's important to defend free speech, even if the company doesn't agree with some of the voices.

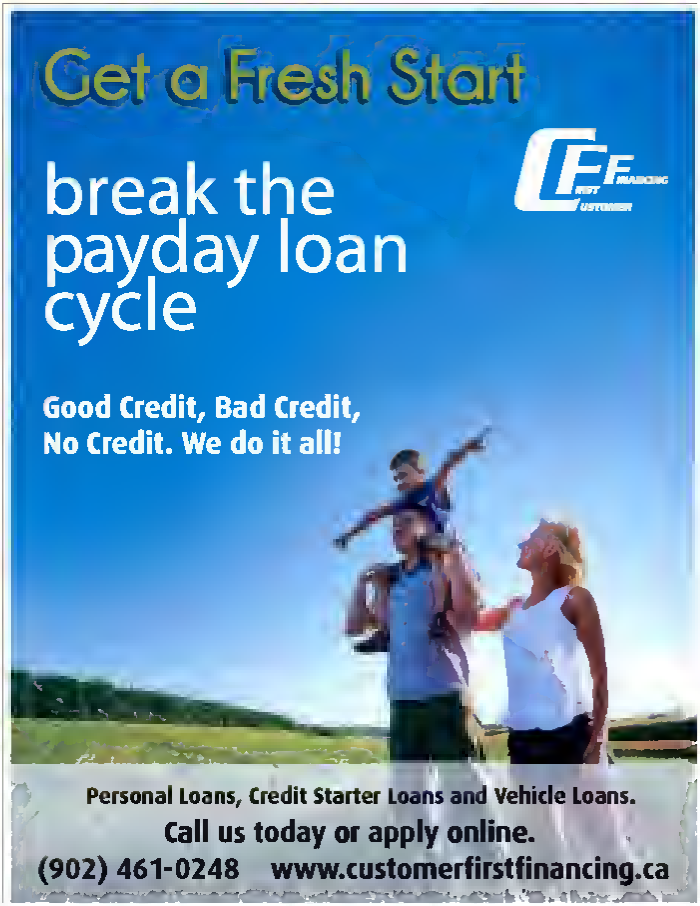
Critics have accused Breitbart News of propagating hate speech such as racism and misogyny.

"When we kick off a merchant, we're asserting our own moral code as the superior one," Lutke said in the statement.

"But who gets to define that moral code? Where would it begin and end? Who gets to decide what can be sold and what can't? If we start blocking out voices, we would fall short of our goals as a company to make commerce better for everyone. Instead, we would have a biased and diminished platform."

> **When we kick off a merchant, we're asserting our own moral code as the superior one.**
> Tobi Lutke

THE CANADIAN PRESS



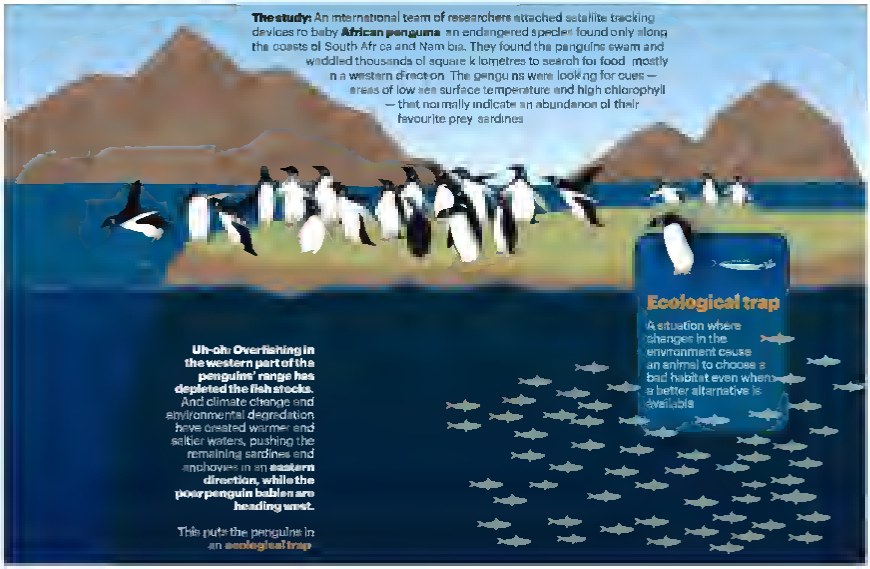
metro SCIENCE
Your essential daily news

**From the Department of Duh:** Traffic deaths are declining because people are driving less, a new study says

**DECODED** by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

# DEATH MARCH OF THE PENGUINS

**Baby African penguins are in serious trouble.** They're toddling off into the sunset looking for food, but heading in the wrong direction. Humans have messed up their habitat, so their favourite snack, sardines, isn't where it's supposed to be. The breeding population in the hardest-hit areas is about half of what it should be. **They're stuck in a trap. Here's why.**




**CITIZEN SCIENTIST** by Genna Buck

## A special message for Research Christmas



Merry Research Christmas! The first 2016 census numbers are out! This is bigger than regular Christmas. Experts have been pining for comprehensive data about the Canadian population since the mandatory long-form census was scrapped in 2010. God bless eggheads everywhere!

I know there's a feeling in the air right now that you can't rely on stats or polls, only your own two eyes. But you can rely on Statscan. It's independent. The data were collected with accepted transparent methods and reviewed by qualified wonks. If there's a problem, it will be corrected. The same can be said for stats in reputable scientific journals. But it can't be said for much of what passes for "statistics."

Nobody uses scientific methods to collect statistics about issues of no scientific interest. Here's an example stat: The average woman has 20 pairs of shoes in her closet. It "sounds" true. But who would fund a study on that? No one, I think. I found the number in a Daily Mail article, but it's originally from an online survey (not a peer reviewed study) by a random British couponing website, VoucherCodesPro.co.uk.

Even some often-repeated statistics of supreme public interest are untraceable. Case in point: survivors of domestic violence leave their abusive partners an average of seven times before staying away for good.

The statistic is often attributed to the National Domestic Violence Hotline. But on their site, they link to a CNN article that quotes an expert saying it. No study, though. I found one graduate students' paper that repeated the stat, citing a 2005 Body Shop press release. The press release didn't cite a source.

Question-ing the stat isn't doubting that domestic violence is a devastating problem. Maybe the number is even higher. (If you know the real number, get in touch!). Meanwhile, my Research New Year's resolution is not to repeat, cite, share or rely on stats from dubious sources.

**Science Question?**
genna.buck@metronews.ca

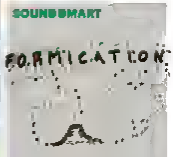
**FINDINGS**
**Your week in science**



**SHIFTING FERTILITY FACTS** Jobs with a lot of manual labour or anti-social hours such as night shifts may negatively affect women's fertility, a new study says. Women doing these types of work tend to have fewer eggs and fewer mature eggs.

**BATTERY UP** Imagine. A battery that lasts ten years, storing solar energy in your basement and discharging it to heat your home. And it it bursts? No prob. The solution inside is water-based. Harvard scientists unveiled just such a prototype this week.

**SOUND SMART**




**DEFINITION**
**Formication** is the feeling of ants crawling all over your body. Most often, it's the result of a common **tactile hallucination** (the ants aren't real; the problem is psychological).

**USE IT IN A SENTENCE**
Mercedes has been scratching all week and is slathering herself in expensive homeopathic cream. The **formication** she's feeling is real, but the problem is in her head.

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# Keanu cashing in on charisma

IN FOCUS

## Unpredictable Reeves returns as John Wick to confound again



Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

This weekend one of the most multipurpose and enduring movie stars of the past thirty years returns to the screen. Kevin Spacey? No. Daniel Day-Lewis? Na ah. Gary Oldman? Nyet. It's Keanu Reeves.

Wait, isn't he the guy critics love to hate? That Reelviews said was "an actor of exceptionally limited scope" just as the Daily Mail called his performance in Constantine as "impersonation of a sleep-walking plank"?

Yes, one in the same. He's The Matrix's Neo, the Ted of Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure and Point Break's Johnny Utah.

This weekend he's the title character in John Wick: Chapter 2, a down-and-dirty noir and follow up to the original 2014 hit.

The actor's latest incarnation represents another reinvention in a career spent keeping audiences guessing. He's gone on existential journeys, wooed Diane Keaton and played a peaceful extraterrestrial ambassador but Wicks is something else again.

The Wick movies are set in an alternative world of assassins where hit men and women are paid in special coins, stay in exclusive hotels — with killer views no doubt — and speak in a strangely formal way.

They see themselves as professionals with a civilized code of conduct — except that there is nothing civilized about the work they do. In the first film Wick was an assassin so tough he didn't bother to take off his gore-soaked shirt when beginning his bloody quest for vengeance.

John Wick, the movies and the character are blunt, fiber: macho instruments brought to life by Reeves in a performance that cripples the argument Today.com made that he is simply a "reciter of dialogue." First of all there is very little dialogue.

The opening fifteen minutes of the first film is essentially a silent movie kept interesting by Reeves's action hero charisma. Unlike Meryl Streep he can't do accents and he doesn't have the range of some of his former co-stars like Oldman but what he does have is presence.

At his best Keanu understands how to be on screen. Author Bret Easton Ellis said that Reeves "is always hypnotic to watch," and what is a movie star if not someone you can't take your eyes off?

The Wick movies cap a busy and unpredictable time for the actor. After Speed and The Matrix he could have stuck to action films and made a career running, jumping and kicking people. Instead he diversified, jumping from romances like Sweet November to crime dramas like The Watcher to The Replacements, a sports comedy.

From studio movies to indies he is unpredictable in his choices, defying expectations. Take his erotic horror thriller Knock Knock for instance. He plays a man held captive in his own home by three female home invaders. It's not a remarkable movie — I called it "deeply unpleasant" in my review — but what makes it interesting is Keanu's character's complete inability to protect himself. Most A listers wouldn't allow themselves to be portrayed as such easy prey but Keanu relishes the chance to upend our view of him.

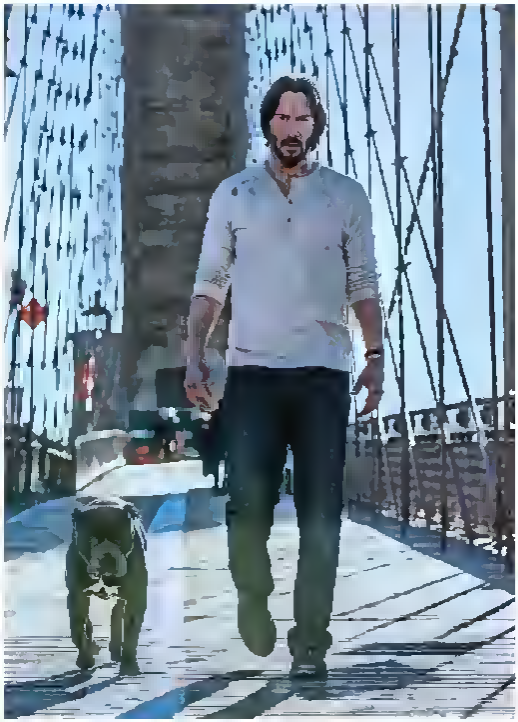
For sure Reeves has made some bad movies and even been bad in some movies but that sometimes happens when actors don't play by the rules.

**MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse**

| | |
|---|---|
| Fifty Shades Darker ★ | |
| The Lego Batman Movie ★★★ | |
| John Wick: Chapter 2 ★★★★ | |
| Paterson ★★★★ | |

HOW RATINGS WORK

★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT



Keanu Reeves returns as the title character in John Wick: Chapter 2. GETTY IMAGES











Michael Cera teams up with former Arrested Development co-star Will Arnett in The Lego Batman Movie, a fresh take on the DC franchise. HANDOUT

# Cera on voicing a comedic sidekick




INTERVIEW

## Canadian actor lends his vocals to a more earnest Robin



Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

You can take the boy out of Canada but you can't take Canada out of the boy. When I meet with Hamilton, Ont. born Michael Cera to chat about his new project, The Lego Batman Movie, he's having lunch eating a Waldorf salad.

The 28-year-old began his career in Canada with a Tim Hortons summer camp commercial before decamping to the United States, finding fame with Arrested Development and a string of successful movies like Superbad and Juno, but has retained his disarming Canadian politeness.

I walk in, he jumps up. "Do you want anything? Cheese? A coffee? How are you doing?"

Declining the snacks and coffee I ask him about the two-year process of recording vocal tracks to play half of the Dynamic Duo, Batman's ward Dick Grayson, a.k.a. Robin.

"You are only focussed on your voice," he says, "so the difference between live action and animation. "That gives you a certain amount of freedom to experiment in ways that you wouldn't normally. And there's nobody around. All self consciousness that exists on a set where there is all this infrastructure put in place to set the camera up and point it at you and then you have to deliver. All that pressure is not there when you're in the studio. They just press record. They're not even recording on tape, it's digital. You just go and experiment and fail as many times as you want.

"As far as improvisation goes it was very loose on this. The script is good and he jokes at work and everything... you feel encouraged and take chances."

The Lego Batman Movie is part parody, part homage to the Batman origin story. When we meet Batman, played by Cera's former Arrested Development co-star Will Arnett, he may have outlived his usefulness as Gotham's main do-gooder. What does a Caped Crusader do when the city no longer needs a vigilante crime fighter? Alfred Pennyworth, the superhero's loyal butler and legal guardian, suggests "It's time to face your greatest fear: being part of a family again." Enter Dick Grayson.

"There's a great foundation there," Cera says about Batman's backstory. "I think the reason Batman keeps getting rehashed is because it is a great core story with this great character and the world around him. There is a lot to play off of in that."

It sounds heavy, but this isn't Christopher Nolan's long dark night of the superhero soul.

"The best thing I can say about the tone is that it is a little like Chuck Jones," Cera says. "Joke. Joke. Joke. It has that kind of rhythm."

Cera's willingness to be irreverent with the Batman mythology isn't a lapse of manners — he is Canadian after all — it's because I'm not an overly enthusiastic Batman fan. I didn't grow up with the comics. Comics just didn't land with me. I was really into cartoons and Nintendo. That was where my head was at. I loved watching the Batman movies but I don't live and breathe it for some reason."



> **Do you want anything? Cheese? A coffee? How are you doing?**
>
> Michael Cera praying Canadian politeness is a lasting trait

# Light, lust and a shady sequel

## A little bit more about four movies that are being released this weekend

**1 Paterson** (Starring Adam Driver, Golshifteh Farahani and Barry Shabaka Henley. Directed by Jim Jarmusch. 118 minutes, 14A)

Who'd have guessed that the road to Nirvana that state of perfect bliss, passes through the aging, industrial town of Paterson, N.J.? Master minimalist Jim Jarmusch sussex it, directing his new film, Paterson with an exquisite slowness. He presents the magical properties of the city, its people through the beatific eyes of a bus driver and mobile poet, played by Adam Driver and coincidentally also named Paterson. Paterson lives a blessedly contented life with his Iranian-American wife, Laura (Farahani...a revelation) and their scene-stealing English bulldog, Marvin. Despite being yin and yang, they are sweetly in love and full of purpose. Jarmusch finds inspiration in the mundane. Paterson is a funny movie, although the humour is not of the laugh out loud variety. It's also a gorgeous film, much of it shot by cinematographer Frederick Elmes, apparently during the "magic hour" of golden light just after sunrise and just before sunset. In this light, the ordinary becomes ecstatic.

**2 Kiss And Cry** (Starring Sarah Fisher, Luke Bilyk. Directed by Sean Cisterna. 91 minutes, PG)

It's hard to bad-mouth a film about such a poignant subject, the true story of a talented young woman's brave battle with a rare form of cancer. But the script by Willem Wennekers is so relentlessly laden with upbeat dialogue that it's hard to discern the real person facing such a stark diagnosis. Without nuance, it's not a challenging or rewarding film.

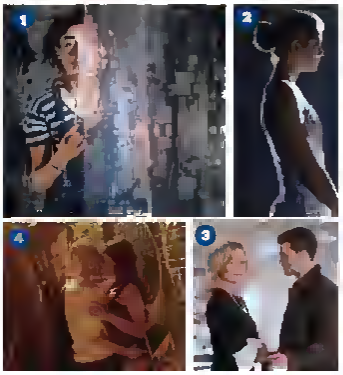
**3 Fifty Shades Darker** (Starring Dakota Johnson, Jamie Dornan, Marcia Gay Harden, Kim Basinger. Directed by James Foley. 118 minutes, 18A)

"I'm gonna need a road map." Dakota Johnson's Anastasia Steele says near the start of Fifty Shades Darker, as she recognizes herself with kinky billionaire Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan). Sorry, Ana, but something more jolting is required, like maybe an electric cattle prod — anything to get a current flowing between these two so-called lovers. The curiosity factor of bringing E.L. James' mommy porn spillage Fifty Shades of Grey to the screen is entirely lost with this dismal sequel, which new director James Foley helms with all the flair of a convenience store security video. Limply picking up from Sam Taylor-Johnson's 2015 franchise debut, the screenplay by Niall Leonard robs Dornan's S&M obsessed Grey of whatever mild sense of menace he possessed. The first film, now seeming so much better in hindsight, had more kinks and even a few laughs. What few yuks there are in Fifty Shades Darker are due mainly to the risible dialogue.

**4 Below Her Mouth** (Starring Erika Linder and Natalie Krill. Directed by April Mullen. 91 minutes, R)

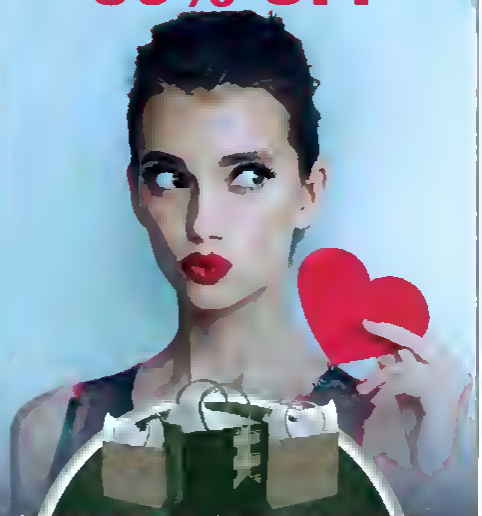
The sex is hot but the story is only lukewarm as two women fall down a sensual rabbit hole during an intense weekend encounter in boundary pushing Below Her Mouth. The camera is rightly captivated with model Erika Linder as roofer Dallas, but her lack of acting experience shows. At a bar, she comes on to Josh on editor Jasmine (Natalie Krill) who is engaged (to a man) but is rebuffed. Jasmine has reason to be curious and Dallas pursues her until she relents. Kudos to the all-female crew, especially director April Mullen, for making a film about women exploring lust on their own terms. The trouble comes with the script as newcomer writer Stephanie Fabrizi struggles with hollow dialogue and illmsy story development.

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# From bookshelf to the box office

TRENDS

## How Hollywood turned page to the 'golden age' of adaptations



Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

One of Wired Magazine's pop-culture experts Angela Watercutter recently stated that we're "arguably in the midst of the golden age of book adaptations." Almost undeniably she would seem to be right.

With the Academy Awards quickly approaching on Feb 26 it's worth noting that over half of the Best Picture nominees were adapted from proven successes in the literature sector.

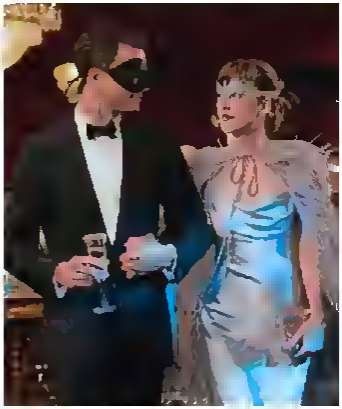
And it won't end at the Oscars. Not by a long shot.

This year is flush with dozens of forthcoming features ripped from the pages of pulp — so much so that it appears Hollywood studios are relying more and more on literature as its box-office bedrock.

This weekend's releases are spearheaded by the big screen version of Fifty Shades Darker the second installment in the record-breaking E.L. James trilogy that sold over 100 million books worldwide.

From erotically charged romantic dramas to tender young adult fiction and even classical fairy tales there is a hearty list of published work currently being produced in Tinseltown.

To commemorate we have rounded up just a handful of sizzling hot book-to-film adaptations that should be on your radar to help warm you through the rest of this cold winter.



**Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson return for Fifty Shades Darker the second screen adaptation of a trilogy that sold over 100 million books.** CONTRIBUTED

### Fifty Shades Darker



Although the first cinematic version of E.L. James's erotic trilogy was dogged by bad reviews, this sequel still has fans frantic to see Dakota Johnson back as Anastasia Steele the young woman who plunges into sexual mischievousness with a BDSM-obsessed businessman. Like the reluctant protagonist, the series seems to secretly desire being spanked by the critics even as it draws crowds.

**Out Feb. 10**

### A Man Called Ove



Sweden's biggest box-office export since Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, this Fredrik Backman-bestseller about a grouchy old widower who reluctantly befriends the family next door after they run over his mailbox has certainly proven adept as an adaptation — it's become the Nordic nation's third biggest local feature and is also up for a Best Foreign-Language Film Oscar at this year's awards.

**Out Feb. 17**

### The Sense of an Ending



Julian Barnes's novel about the fallibility of memory has attracted two of the world's top acting legends (Oscar-winner Jim Broadbent of Iris, Bridget Jones's Diary and Charlotte Rampling of TV's Dexter, Swimming Pool) and with good reason. The acclaimed story of a man confronted by his past after he is willed a diary won the esteemed Man Booker Prize in 2011.

**Out March 17**

### Beauty and the Beast



While Disney turned this tale iconic with an animated blockbuster in 1991, the original source material was Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve's 18th Century fairy-tale about a young girl imprisoned in the castle of a hideous monster. Now Disney revives the classic romance with a star-studded live-action adaptation that features Emma Watson as the beautiful Belle who bewitches the Beast.

**Out March 17**

### The Zookeeper's Wife



With this hit 2007 bestseller from Diane Ackerman, Kiwi filmmaker Niki Caro returned to the familiar female narrative that launched her career in 2002 with international hit Whale Rider. Based on the diaries of Antonina Zabinski this incredible wartime story recounts how Zabinski and her zoologist husband rescued over 300 Jews during the invasion of Poland by living them in animal cages.

**Out March 31**

# The Avery is the eco-friendly choice for condo buyers

Fulfilling the urbanite's desire for short commutes, eco-friendly and luxury living, it's no wonder that condos are becoming the hot property for people under 35.

The Avery, in the heart of trendy downtown Dartmouth, is the new condo project on the block. Stunning views of the Halifax skyline are just one of the benefits of living in a thoughtfully designed, skillfully built and eco-friendly building. It's the latest incarnation of affordable, luxury living to come to the neighbourhood.

"Many desire to cut down on daily commutes to work by living closer to downtown and to help create a more environmentally sustainable lifestyle," says spokesperson Margo Whitman. She believes that The Avery is an attractive option for singles, bachelors, professional couples and people who are downsizing.

While shopping for a condo, innovation and design — like what you'll find at The Avery — is an important thing to keep in mind.

In general, condos tend to save energy (which means lower costs) and are relatively low maintenance. The Avery improves upon that, matching a beautiful setup with environmentally friendly construction and design. Developers used an eco-conscious




strategy with sustainable materials, adhering to high standards for indoor environmental quality and water efficiency.

The building is non-smoking, has energy efficient lighting, a parking area for bicycles and a common exterior green space. There is also climate control (natural gas heating and air conditioning) for comfort year-round.

Living in downtown Dartmouth makes for a healthier lifestyle, too. Instead of idling in traffic or getting stuck on the bridge, you can walk to work, take a quick bus or zip over to downtown Halifax on the ferry.

Pop by the Farmers' Market across the street to pick up something fresh for dinner or grab a gourmet coffee at one of the trendy coffee shops on your way to work.

When it's time to play, residents can walk to cool pubs and sweet eateries in the area. No need to shell out for a cab – it's easy enough to walk home on a Saturday night. With both Halifax and Dartmouth's downtown cores so close, there's always something to do and new friends to meet.

But with all these amenities right in the building, you might not want to leave home.

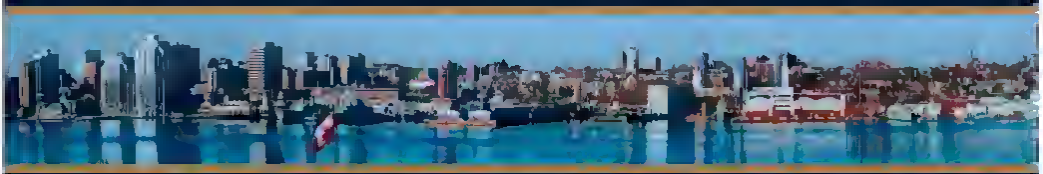
A rooftop terrace outfitted with a barbecue and kitchen is perfect for entertaining guests. There's also a fully furnished common room to host parties or meetings, a fitness room and sauna. Secure underground parking, landscaping and snow removal also help make life at The Avery worry-free.

The 69 units in The Avery feature 10-foot-high tray ceilings. No detail has been overlooked; standard finishes — which are usually upgrades at other buildings — include engineered hardwood and porcelain tile floors, granite and quartz stone countertops.

Visit **theavery.ca** for regular Open House hours or call today to book a private tour at a time convenient for you.


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# Give the gift of a shared experience

DAY FOR LOVE

## Time together can make up for all that time spent apart

**Tanya Enberg**

When Valentine s Day traditions start feeling a little worn out, skip the card and flowers in exchange for something less conventional.

Doing so could be your best bet for success this Feb. 14.

According to Toronto psychotherapist Nicole McCance what many people really want could surprise you.

"There s a lot of pressure, especially on men, to buy something, but most of my couples tell me that life is so busy and what they are really craving is an experience " says McCance

"They want the gift of time."

To make the day special, while boosting connectedness and intimacy in your relationship, it helps to know how your partner best receives the message of love, says McCance referring to Dr. Gary Chapman s five Love Languages, which identifies the fundamental ways in which people feel nurtured in relationships.

For some a gift does the trick, while for others, receiving a new pair of earrings could be a total bust, depending on the love language they speak.

According to Chapman, some desire affirmation (being told I love you or given a compliment, for example) whereas others appreciate acts of service (such as cooking, taking care of the laundry or washing the dishes) physical touch, or the aforementioned gift of quality time the latter of which is characterized by focusing your attention on each other and not, say the television.



Plan a day out doing something different together. You ll enjoy these one on one and have the memories go with it. ISTOCK

Thoughtful gestures, however small, can packa really big punch.

"Life gets so crazy we begin to associate our partner with stress " explains McCance, adding relationships risk losing the lustre amid daily demands such as "who s doing pick-up and drop-off (of the kids)."

To create an enriching occasion tailor-made to your loved one consider what they complain about, she suggests.

"For instance, if she says you're never home or you never touch me, do the opposite. Once the kids are in bed, put on some romantic music and give her a sensual massage. And that's free. Make a homemade greeting card letting her know how special she is. Be curious be complimentary This is someone you share your life with. Remember how curious you used to be about them?"

Also a shared experience promotes closeness and offers multiple rewards.

"You have the anticipation of it coming then you enjoy the day and then you have the memory of it," says McCance.

### IDEAS

**1. Travel:** Whether single or paired up, day trips overn ght stays or even exploring a neighbouthood in your own city can be a fun adventure that shakes up a daily routine.
**2. Volunteer:** Choose an organization dear to your heart and give it the gift of time.
**3. Get outdoors:** Go sled ding or ice skating and then warm up with cups of hot cocoa.
**4. Play host:** Organize a potluck gathering for family and friends.
**5. Be creative:** Make a DIY g ft, such as a scrapbook or mixed CD, or pen a handwr tten love letter.
**6. Make a grand gesture:** Plan a nostalg c outi ng to the place you first met or had your first date.
**7. Get clean:** Hire a house cleaner to help scrub away the to-do list.
**8. Perfect Pillow talk:** After lett ng your sweetheart enjoy a nice long sleep in surprise them with breakfast in bed.
**9. Heat up the kitchen:** Try cook ng a new recipe or baking something sweet together.
**10. Celebrate all love:** Go for a walk with a good friend or reach out to someone you know is struggling.

# Gadgets that bring you closer together

Does your love life need a bit of a boost? While it might be the last thing you had in mood the latest tech might just be what the (love) doctor ordered.

In fact the right gadgets may just add some techetement to your relationship to help rekindle the flame between you and your partner.

Before you pooh-pooh the proposition consider the following examples of how a techy gift might do the trick this Valentine s Day.

### Headphone splitter

Consider It a romantic way to split up the Belkin Headphone Splitter ($26 Amazon.ca) lets two users listen to the same songs at the same time.

Simply plug this black or white splitter into your phone tablet or laptop — perhaps while lying together on the couch or beach or while taking a stroll around the neighbourhood — and then two sets of headphones or earbuds can be inserted into the twin 3 5mm headphone jacks.



SONY ALPHA A5000 CAMERA

### Heated foot spa

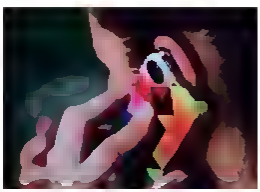
It s the next best thing to a visit at the spa — and you don t have to leave your home As the name suggests Homedics Bubble Spa Pro Footbath with Heat Boost Power ($99 99 Bed Bath & Beyond) gives your significant other a warm massaging bath for her tired feet.

The clever toe-touch control means he can keep his hands to his robe pocket while sitting back and enjoying being pampered A built in carry handle lets her easily transport it around the home before and after her few moments of heaveoly bubbly bliss Heck why not buy two and be spoiled at the same time side by side while sipping some vino?

### Stellar camera

Give the gift of captured memories with a premium camera — but without the premium price

The Sony Alpha A5000 mirrorless camera with E PZ 16-50mm zoom lens ($529 99 Best Buy) delivers dSLR quality in a compact form factor plus this 20 1 megapixel camera features integrated Wi Fi connectivity to instantly share your images with the world via a nearby smartphone



OCLASK N6 SMARTPHONE CASES



BELKIN HEADPHONE SPLITTER

### Decorative skins, cases

Decorate your better half's smartphone tablet e-reader or laptop with hundreds of different designs to personalize their gear. Gelaskins (from $16 gelaskins com) are high quality skins that affix to your favourite digital devices to give them some unique flare

You can also download free matching wallpaper to display behind the icons There are also fitted Gelaskins smartphone cases (from $20 gelaskins com) A percentage of each sale goes to the artist plus you can upload your own design to create a custom one-of-a-kind skin such as a family photo a couples portrait or while not romantic a favorite sports team s logo

MARC SALTZMAN

HENRY'S

GREATEST CAME

# Love Photography

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# A FARMERS' MARKET WITH SOME EUROPEAN FLAIR

For an entirely different — that is, enjoyable and relaxing — shopping experience, stop by the Redford Basin Farmers' Market on your way home from work tonight.

The charming, 30 000 square foot wood and stone building with stunning harbour views opened last April. Like traditional farmers' markets, visitors can find enticing displays full of colourful fruit and vegetables from June to October; the bins overflowing with fresh produce from the Annapolis Valley. During the off-season, local root vegetables and both Canadian and international products are on display.

But unlike most farmers' markets, there's a lot more to discover.

Stephanie Giannoulis' father Peter bought the former Farmer Clem's property with the vision of turning it into a year-round market brimming with local delicacies that have a European touch.

"He wanted it to be a one-stop shop for everything: fresh local produce, fresh baked bread, fresh desserts and a coffee shop," Giannoulis says.

Because of his Greek background, he wanted the market to sell Greek oranges, extra virgin olive oil and olives picked from orchards on Mount Taygetos.



CONTRIBUTED

In the European pantry, you'll also find unique dry goods from Germany, Spain and others.

"We get our meats from the valley and our butcher prepares them," Giannoulis says. "He marinates them or has them sealed and ready to go home and cook for dinner. There are skewers, pork loin and many other choices, prepared fresh."

Four bakers are on site daily crafting artisan breads, pastries, cakes, mousses and European desserts like baklava.

Shopping can build up an appetite, so make sure to stop at the warm and inviting café during the trip. Their coffees from Java Blend are freshly brewed, and there are also hot soups, sandwiches and wraps made fresh every day.

"We offer the combination of shopping while sipping a hot cappuccino," Giannoulis says. "You can also get tasteful desserts and fresh bread. You can just sit and relax after you do your shopping."

When the weather turns warmer, take that cappuccino outside to enjoy the view. The café spans over two levels, the upper one is beside the Basinview Banquet Room, which just opened in January and can accommodate up to 110 people for meetings, conferences, weddings or other gatherings. It's all catered with dishes like spanakopita, meat pies and other yummy eats.

There are two businesses that rent space on the third floor: Red Sky IT Solutions and Women of Many Hats.

Visit the Redford Basin Market at 397 Bedford Highway. It's open 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on Sunday.




metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Iris Apfel to host trans-atlantic fashion-themed cruise on the Queen Mary 2

# Eco-tours on the Island of Enchantment

For those seeking more than your typical sand and surf getaway, Puerto Rico provides adventure. Yes, it has beautiful beaches and that golden Caribbean sunshine, but treks through lush rainforests and bioluminescence tours will take your usual island vacation up a notch. KAREN KLEIN/FOR METRO

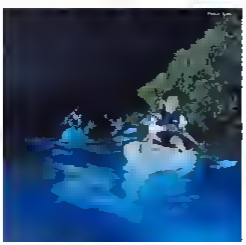
## Scale to new heights



Get your feet wet, literally. For an immersive experience, hook up with Ecoquest Adventures and leave your favourite kicks in your hotel room because this is no walk in the (rain)forest park.

At times you'll be more than knee deep in the Turabo River as you make your way up a mountain in the Caribe state forest. And the descent is no letdown. It's one exhilarating rappel — with safety harness on, of course — down a waterfall immediately followed by five ziplines that bring you back to the base.

There, you're welcomed back with a nourishing home-cooked lunch prepared by the Figueroa family who've lived and worked here since before the forest became a reserve.



## Nighttime adventure

A quiet paddle out in a kayak through a mangrove in inky blink-darkness, cocooned by branches overhead. This start to the bioluminescent bay tour is enough to make you feel at one with nature. Soon enough, you enter Laguna Grande and here is where — with a sweep of your hand into the warm water — you're rewarded with sparkles of light. This original fairy dust, it's thanks to the heavy concentration of plankton in the bay, and it's bay in Puerto Rico's Fajardo region is one of the rare places in the world you can have this enlightening experience.

Tip: For the best views, aim to book your excursion on a night without moonlight and avoid going out after a heavy rainfall as both impact how much of a glittery glow you can see.

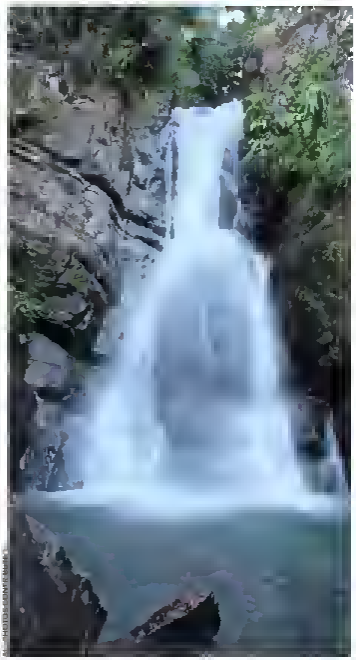
## Explore a neighbouring island

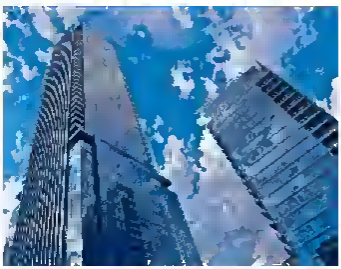
For a crystal clean water and virtually non-existent beaches, book a boat tour to take you to Culebra or Culebrita.

Tip: If you're motion sickness prone, take your meds beforehand as strong waves will rock the boat along the way.

For a change from the beach scene, get your tropical rainforest fill at El Yunque, one of the oldest preserves in the Western Hemisphere, dating back to 1876. Its name is derived from the word yuquiyu, which stands for white lands, given the lot of clouds just above the peaks. More than 1.5 million people visit this lush rainforest annually so you'll be rubbing elbows with plenty of fellow tourists.

The company is worth it for the chance to take in 240 native tree species (but thankfully no dangerous animals, snakes or insects) climb the 98 steps up Yokahu Tower to an elevation of 1,575 feet for the view and get a refreshing cool down from by the mist of Juan Diego waterfall.





Four Seasons Toronto is organizing the global expedition TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LIFESTYLES

# Global culinary tour for the 1 per cent

Most travellers have a limited budget for food, hotels and souvenirs and will do their best to stick with it. And then there are those with the deepest of deep pockets.

It's clearly the latter that Toronto-based Four Seasons has in mind with its latest extravagant offering: a 19-day culinary-themed jaunt across Asia and Europe with opportunities to nosh in Michelin-starred restaurants, discover street food and go on chef-led market tours.

Price tag: $135,000 US per person. That's double occupancy. If you're hoofing it on your own you'll have to cough up the $12,000 single supplement.

Destinations on the itinerary include Seoul (the starting point), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Chiang Mai, Mumbai, Florence, Lisbon, Copenhagen and Paris.

An elephant trek in northern Thailand, a private viewing of Michelangelo's David in Florence and a foraging experience in Denmark are also part of the package.

Mingling with the noncommoners in the skies is not an issue. Air travel is aboard the Four Seasons private jet and accommodations are at the chain's luxurious hotels and resorts.

Four Seasons, which partnered with Copenhagen restaurant Noma and co-owner Rene Redzepi to develop the May 27 to June 14 trip, says it is also tossing in a special gift: complimentary business-class airfare from each guest's home city to Seoul and back from Paris, up to $5,000 US per person.

**$135,000**

**Cost in USD per person (add another $12,000 for single occupancy), to bank your spot on a 19 day worldwide tour for foodies organized by Four Seasons Toronto.**

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro SPORTS

Bucks breakout forward Jabari Parker suffered a season-ending left knee injury for the second time in three years, the team said Thursday

NHL

# Leafs fall to Blues in OT

Vladimir Tarasenko scored the overtime winner as the St. Louis Blues kept rolling under new head coach Mike Yeo, beating the Toronto Maple Leafs 2-1.

Tarasenko snapped his 26th goal of the year past Frederik Andersen 20 seconds into the extra frame as St Louis improved to 4-1-0 under Yeo, who replaced Ken Hitchcock as the Blues' coach last week.

Morgan Rielly scored the lone goal for Toronto (25-17-11) and Andersen was sharp with 38 saves in defeat.

It was the second time in a week that St. Louis (28-22-5) beat Toronto, the Blues emerging 5-1 last week at home.

St. Louis, which sits third in the Central division with 61 points, got its other goal from Patrik Berglund in the first period. Jake Allen made 31 saves.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Maple Leafs goalie Frederik Andersen makes one of his 38 saves on Thursday.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# UAE player lives dream with Caps

HOCKEY

## Al Ali flown to U.S. as part of inclusive NHL initiative

When Fatima Al Ali first started playing hockey in the United Arab Emirates, she skated with young children half her size.

"They were looking up at me like 'What is she doing here?'," she said.

On Wednesday, she was halfway around the world skating with the NHL's Washington Capitals, and they knew exactly what she was doing there. Capitals great Peter Bondra was impressed by Al Ali's advanced stickhandling moves during a visit to Abu Dhabi, and the team flew her to the United States to meet her favourite player, Alex Ovechkin, during the league's Hockey is for Everyone month.

The 27-year old Al Ali only began playing hockey six years ago after falling in love with the sport as the official photographer for the men's national team, and now she's among the best players on the women's team in the United Arab Emirates. According to the International Ice Hockey Federation, the UAE has only 82 adult women's players among its 802 skaters and just nine rinks in the country of almost six million where the average winter temperature is about 26 C.

"Hockey is getting more and more popular and Fatima is one of the key factors to this success," said Rasti Pavlikovsky, who runs the hockey camp where Bondra saw Al Ali in November. "She loves the sport, she is at the rink every day, not just skating and training, but also helping out to run the practices and games, she is also a great referee at international level."

In a foreign land, she found some comfort on the ice with the Capitals. As cameras from about a dozen media outlets documented her every stride, Al Ali talked about herself, the sport in the Middle East and stick curves and different moves.

"I was so nervous going on the ice, but once we started talking, it just calmed down," she said. "We're just talking about hockey, something we all share and something we all love."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fatima Al Ali of the United Arab Emirates was invited to meet Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals on Wednesday in Arlington, Va.

JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **She's going to be a real role model, and I think it's a good symbol.**
>
> Capitals coach Barry Trotz

2018 WINTER OLYMPICS

# Canada forecast to win 29 medals

An analytics company predicts a big Winter Olympics for Norway and says Canada will finish fourth in total medals won next year in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

The U.S.-based sports and entertainment data company Gracenote has Norway topping its virtual medal table with a whopping 40 medals, including 15 gold, which would both be a Winter Games records.

**240**

**The COC expects to send a team of approximately 240 athletes to Pyeongchang.**

Canada is projected to collect 29 medals — nine gold, nine silver and 11 bronze — behind Germany with 34 and the U.S. at 32 in Pyeongchang.

France is pegged to post its best performance tying the U.S. for gold with 10 and Russia at 22 medals.

The 2018 Winter Olympics open Feb. 9 and close 16 days later.

With a year to go, The Canadian Press forecasts 28 medals for the Canadian team (eight gold, 10 silver, 10 bronze).

Those who run Canadian sport are waiting until after world championships conclude to declare the country's goal for Pyeongchang.

Finishing first in total medals won was the target in both 2010 and 2014, when Canada won 26 medals for third and 25 for fourth, respectively.

Canada ranks third among countries in gold medals (31) and total medals (116) so far this winter sport World Cup season behind Germany (64, 163) and the United States (45, 126).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## IN BRIEF

**Canada caps perfect round robin in Fed Cup play**

Canada defeated Paraguay 3-0 on Thursday to close out round-robin play at the Fed Cup Americas Zone Group I event with a 3-0 record.

Canada will face the winner of Pool B in Saturday's final with a berth in the World Group II playoffs in April on the line.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Riders coach denies working out Mazziel**

Saskatchewan Roughriders head coach Chris Jones has denied a report that the Saskatchewan Roughriders illegally worked out quarterback Johnny Manziel.

The former Heisman Trophy winner remains on the negotiation list of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, which gives them CFL exclusivity to him. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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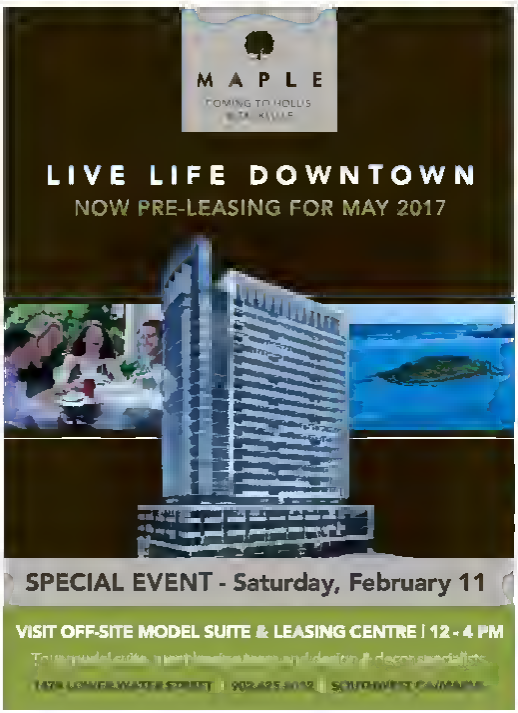
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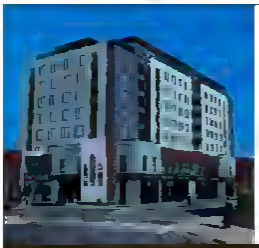
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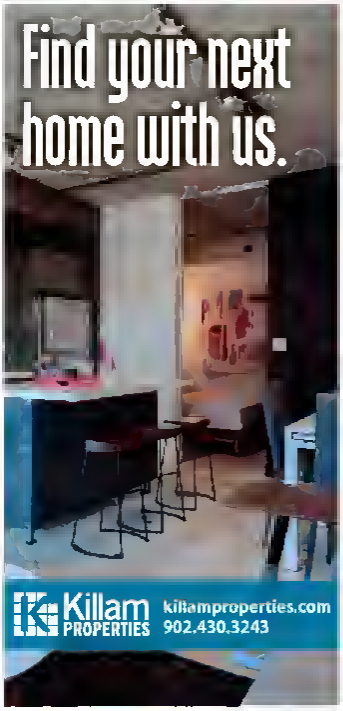
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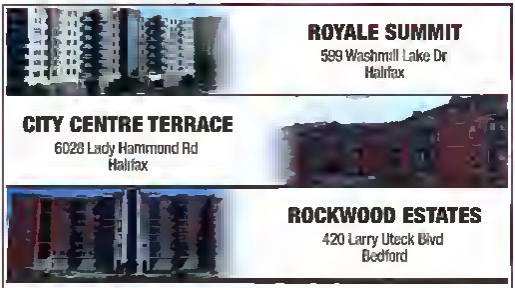




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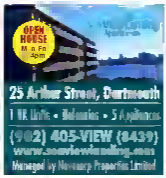

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## *Wholesome* Salmon Cakes



PHOTO: MARK WEBSTER

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

End your week on a light note with these simple elegant salmon cakes.

**Ready in 50 minutes**
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 6

**Ingredients**
- 2 large Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 leek, washed well, sliced in half and thinly sliced
- 2 5 oz (142 g) salmon, drained
- 2 tbsp fresh dill, chopped (reserve 1/4 cup mayonnaise

**Directions**

**1.** Simmer potatoes until tender in boiling water. Drain and mash. It will make about 2 cups of mashed potatoes. Allow to cool slightly.

**2.** Gently combine salmon, potatoes, leeks and dill. Blend in mayonnaise and a pinch of salt and pepper.

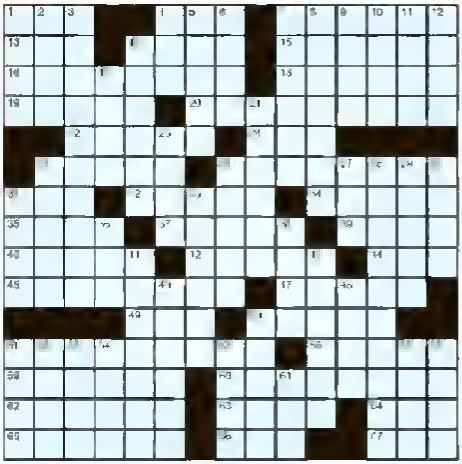
**3.** Form into about 12 patties — about 2 1/2 inches across and maybe 1/2 inch thick and place on a plate. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour.

**4.** Heat some vegetable oil until hot but not smoking. Fry the cakes — don't over crowd the pan, you'll have a hard time flipping them — for about five minutes a side.

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## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KERRY ANN SUCHANAN



**ACROSS**
1. L.T. banned pollutant
4. In-the-lab-at-lunch
7. Sacred songs
13. Leftover of "Lily" still in the tavern bottle?
14. Bloke
15. Down-__ (Worn out)
16. Hockey defensive zone marker: 2 wds.
18. One of the Colvins in Madonna's "Vogue"
19. Manitoba town northeast of Winnipeg
___ Bennet
20. Stylish bit of fleet wear: 2 wds.
22. Pointedly forever
24. "13 __ Madeleine" (1947) starring James Cagney
25. He defeated Goliath
26. Country star Glen
31. Rimbaud's Gretchen
32. Pacific island republic
34. Smooth translation
35. Joan Vollmer portrayer Mr. Williamson
37. Hidden hazard
39. Britney Spears' sister Jamie__
40. Sugar's pal in coffee
42. Remove the hands at/clothes
44. 15th PM's monogram
45. Salad dressing ingredient, in francais
47. Whitewater relic
48. __ Tin Tin
50. "Howdy!"
51. Home team chant at an ACC hockey game: 3 wds.
56. Particular passel
58. Vanantly an old knowledge
60. Ontario folk festival where Joni Mitchell first famously played
62. Encrypted. 2 wds.
63. Street sort, shortly
64. Vancouver-born actor Ale Reikes
65. Intelligence/agency of Israel
66. Compass air
67. Tasty tuber type

**DOWN**
1. Periodical or magazine, e.g.
2. Pop
3. Bryan Adams' longtime manager: 2 wds.
4. FJ link
5. NEI's Grand__ Island
6. Frank
7. Invented-in-Canada baby cereal
8. Meryl's multi-Oscars
9. Hermen Melville's captain
10. Fallon's predecessor
11. Beatles "Love ___"
12. Schedule
13. Spinning
14. Open the information loop: 2 wds.
17. 1999 Matthew McConaughey movie
21. Bluegrass singer Alison
23. Nutritional suggested amts.
25. "...see my red __ must have it painted black." The Rolling Stones
26. Construction litter
27. Barbara __ Geddes, "Dallas" actress
28. Study of King Tut, Pyramids, Hieroglyphics, etc.
29. Quebec City "mornes"
30. Leaner
33. Gladiator's 1206
36. On-the-nod hyperbole
38. Goat's bleat
39. In the spot
41. Cynthia's "Sex and the City" character
43. For whom King Edward abdicated in 1936
46. Talented
48. Acrobat's feat
50. Mother Nature's wintertime coats
51. Flicker of light, briefly
52. Winner's prefix
53. Resins in varnishes
54. Ancient Greece's love god
55. Pickup trucks, e.g.
57. __ Minor
58. Tranquil
61. Food Network chef Ms. Drummond

## ✷IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20
The full moon today might create problems with kids or romance partners. Be careful about going overboard or overreacting to things. Keep it cool.

**Taurus** Apr 21 - May 21
Today you feel pulled between the demands of home and family versus the demands of your job, career and public reputation. You can't please everyone.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21
Because of the full moon energy today, there's a mildly accident prone day for your sign. Therefore, slow down and take it easy.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23
Something to do with shared property taxes or debt might come to a head today due to the full moon energy. Go slowly in everything you do.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
Today the only full moon all year in your sign is taking place. This can make relationships with partners and close friends emotional and testy.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Dill pickles at work or with co-workers might arise today because of the full moon. Just be calm, tolerant and easygoing with everyone.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Social events, romantic relationships, playful activities with children and sports events are all subject to the explosive full moon energy today. Don't get carried away.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Do what you can to keep the peace at home because today's full moon might stir up things within the family or where you live. Avoid arguments with authority figures, especially Mom.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a mildly accident prone day for you because of the full moon. Take time to notice everything around you.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today's full moon can affect your finances in some way. Therefore, double-check everything you do. Don't give the farm away.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today the only full moon opposite your sign all year is taking place. This will put some stress on your relationships with partners and close friends, which means you have to be tolerant and patient.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20
Difficulties with co-workers might arise today because of the full moon. This is mild and temporary. Just go with the flow.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

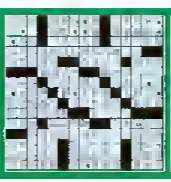
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